

Background

The SNC's enabling legislation requires us to report annually to the Legislature and to the Secretary of the Resources Agency regarding "expenditures, land management costs, and administrative costs." While we have reported this information to the Legislature and Secretary through the budget process over the past few years, we have not created a formal annual report to provide this and other information about the SNC's activities and accomplishments to all interested stakeholders.

Current Status

With the close of the 2007-08 fiscal year, the SNC began development of an annual report to inform the Legislature and other stakeholders about our activities and accomplishments during the prior year, including a fiscal summary with all of the statutorily required information. Because this is the SNC's first annual report, we have also included a summary of our activities and expenditures during 2005-06 and 2006-07, since the SNC's inception.

In order to create a more interesting and informative report, provide easy access to the report throughout the region, and to make this a "green" report, we focused primarily on creating an interactive online version. This allowed us to include links to relevant background and project information as well as short video clips of Board members, partners, grant recipients, and staff, describing their impressions of the SNC and how the organization has already begun to make a difference in the Sierra Nevada Region during its first few years. The report also provides information relative to the Proposition 84 grants awarded in 2007-08, including a description of a sampling of projects by type.

A final draft copy of the Annual Report is included in this agenda item.

Draft Annual Report Web page:

<http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/annualreport08.html>

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board provide suggested modifications and authorize the staff to produce and distribute a final SNC 2007-08 Annual Report.



2007–2008 ANNUAL REPORT



SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY 2007–2008 ANNUAL REPORT



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Tioga Pass, Yosemite
Cover: Pee Wee Lake, High Sierra
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Yuba River in Winter
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*"(About the Conservancy)...
people are starting to say this is
really a fantastic thing."*

**Cheryl Belcher, Executive Director
Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council**

Autumn Sunrise, Rock Creek
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This first annual report of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) briefly captures the initial years of the SNC's existence, as well as more detailed information for fiscal year 2007–08. During the early years a number of organizational activities were undertaken by the SNC, including a substantial amount of public outreach. Input received from these outreach efforts, was used by the SNC as it developed its organizational structure, [Strategic Plan](#), [Program Guidelines](#) and [Grant Guidelines](#).

During those early years, the SNC also searched for suitable office locations and established a headquarters office in Auburn and an office in Mariposa, as well as procuring space for staff in federal office buildings in Susanville and Bishop ([view map](#)). Hiring of staff occurred throughout fiscal years 2006–07 and 2007–08 with 22 permanent staff now employed by the SNC.

Recognizing the importance of education and outreach, the SNC developed the [Education and Communications Plan](#), participated in the Governor's "Green Dream" event and attended many other meetings and events throughout the Sierra Nevada Region¹ (Region) as it worked to build partnerships. These efforts included outreach to decision-makers and residents in the Region and throughout the state to communicate the importance of the Region and the actions necessary to protect it.

In November 2006 voters approved [Proposition 84](#), the *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006*. Included in the bond measure was a \$54 million allocation to the SNC to support projects to improve watershed health throughout the Region. In 2007–08 the SNC carried out the first year of its Proposition 84 grants program, awarding nearly \$17 million for 146 projects with a wide array of benefits throughout the Region.

Also during 2007–08 the SNC began an effort to address the critical issue of climate change in the Sierra Nevada, hosting a symposium and beginning development of a Climate Change Initiative for the Region.

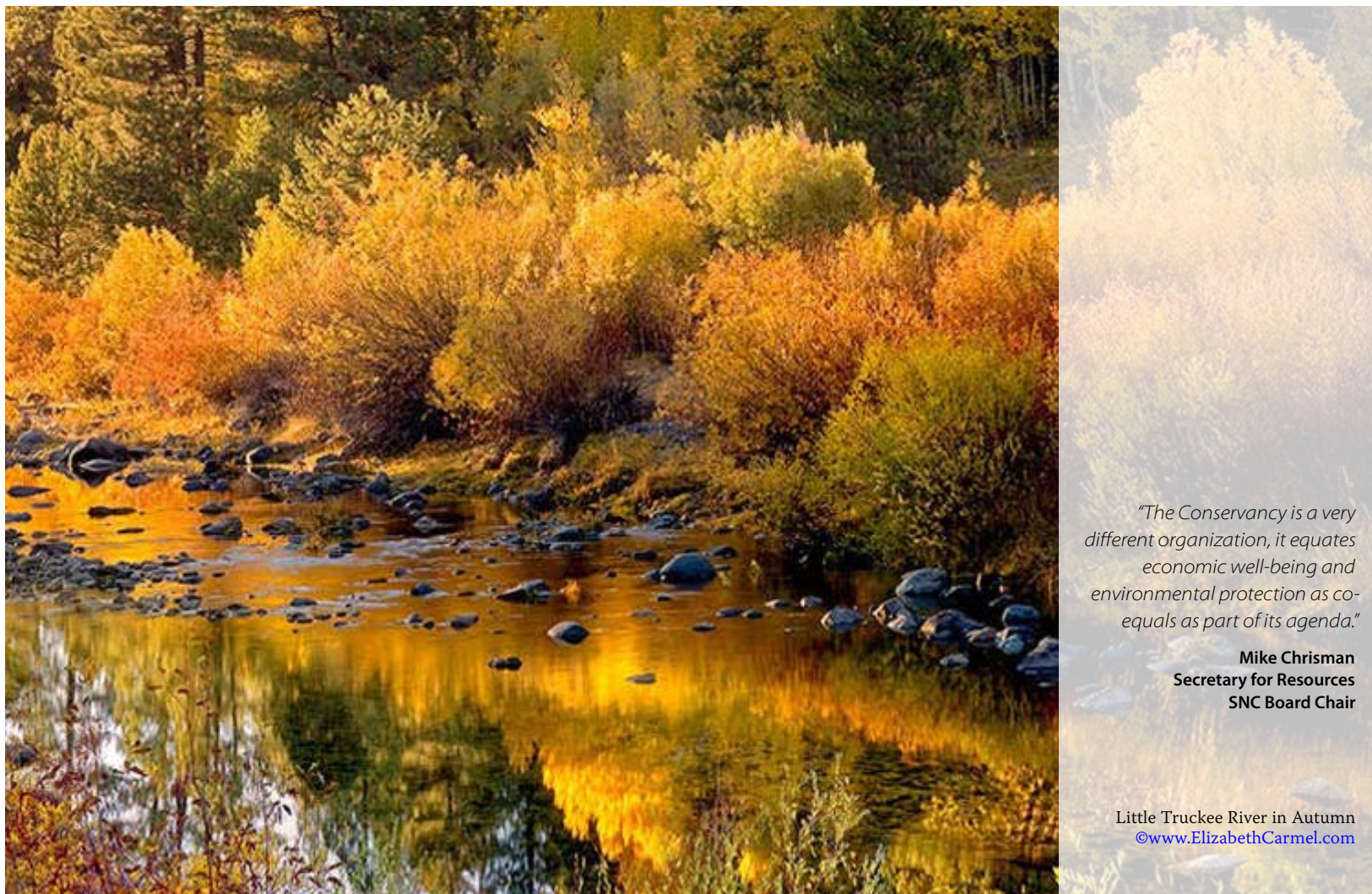
The SNC receives funding for all of these activities through the State's Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) and Proposition 84 funds. The 2007–08 Budget Act appropriated \$3.9 million to the SNC from the ELPF for its base operations and \$506,000 in Proposition 84 funds for administration of its grant program.

In the more than three years since the SNC was created, the Governing Board and staff have worked hard to identify ways in which the organization can make a positive difference in the Region. Programs have been developed to support existing efforts, raise awareness of issues, encourage new activities and increase the overall capacity to deal with complex issues across the Region. We are proud of the difference we have already made in a part of the State that is so critically important to all Californians and we look forward to making an even greater difference in the future.

What Others Are Saying About the SNC

Videos: ▶ [Joan Clayburgh, Director, Sierra Nevada Alliance](#)
▶ [Steve Schackelton, National Park Service](#)
▶ [Robyn Smith, Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation District](#)

¹ The [Sierra Nevada Conservancy](#) is comprised of 25 million acres, all or part of 22 counties, 20 incorporated cities, 40 special districts and 212 communities.



"The Conservancy is a very different organization, it equates economic well-being and environmental protection as co-equals as part of its agenda."

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
SNC Board Chair

Little Truckee River in Autumn
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
SNC Board Chair

► [Video Highlights](#)

For many of us, the creation of the SNC was the culmination of years of discussion and debate. Previous efforts, including legislation, had failed due to a variety of issues. In 2003, when Governor Schwarzenegger was elected to office he established the creation of the SNC as one of his top environmental goals.

In the months that followed, staff here at the Resources Agency worked tirelessly with Assemblymen Tim Leslie and John Laird and their staff to craft legislation in a way that would “work” for this remarkable Sierra Nevada Region (Region). The result, Assembly Bill (AB) 2600, was signed into law by the Governor on September 23, 2004 at a ceremony near Colfax California.

This conservancy is different than others in a number of ways. It is charged with a mission based on the understanding that the environmental and economic well-being of the Region are closely linked. The SNC Governing Board (Board) has a strong local government representation with 6 of the 13 voting members being county supervisors. The 3 major federal land management organizations in the Region also have seats as non voting members.

As we have worked over the past 3 plus years to organize the agency and develop and implement its programs, we have learned a great deal about how we can best serve this important Region. In my opinion, one of the key lessons learned is that the somewhat different approach being taken with this organization is the right one.

The Board has worked closely with staff and a wide range of stakeholders to develop a [strategic plan](#) that clearly articulates a course for the next 5 years

and identifies the actions necessary for us to be successful. The plan that we have is one that I am proud of and believe it provides a sound roadmap for the immediate future. That being said, we are committed to continuing to learn from our experiences and making adjustments as they are warranted and needed.

The development of grant guidelines and the implementation of the first year of Proposition 84 grants was a huge undertaking for a new organization. Through the hard work of the SNC staff, the organization was able to award nearly \$17 million in grants across the Region. I know I speak for all Boardmembers in expressing appreciation not only to the staff, but to the dozens of organizations that brought forward so many outstanding projects for our consideration.

The theme of this annual report is making a difference—a difference for the Region, for its communities and for its citizens. I can say without hesitation that during the short existence of the SNC, we have made a difference. I can further add with equal assurance that the best is yet to come!

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY 2007–2008 ANNUAL REPORT



*"We are committed to a
collaborative cooperative
organization, one that values
partnerships one that values
open transparent processes
in government."*

**Jim Branham, Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

Miter Basin, High Sierras
[©www.ElizabethCarmel.com](http://www.ElizabethCarmel.com)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Jim Branham
Executive Officer

► [Video Highlights](#)

What a great job I have! Serving as the Executive Officer of the SNC is a true honor and a very rewarding experience. During my nearly 3 years in the job I have travelled thousands of miles, visited scores of communities and viewed some of the most magnificent scenery in the world. I have met dedicated public officials and community leaders, as well as passionate volunteers—all committed to the environmental and economic well-being of the Region.

During the past three years, we have worked hard to create an organization that honors the spirit and the letter of the legislation that created the SNC. I believe we have made outstanding progress.

We've taken the charge to collaborate, cooperate and seek the public's input to heart. The SNC has engaged the public in 39 formal public workshops and dozens of other meetings across the Region. Our Governing Board (Board) rotates its quarterly meetings among the six Subregions, taking the business of the SNC to the communities we serve ([view map](#)). We've met in Grange halls, fairgrounds, Supervisors' chambers, train depots, veteran halls and senior centers; and more important than just meeting, we have listened carefully and acted on what we've heard. Our strategic plan, grants program and education and communications plan are all stronger because of the interaction with so many stakeholders.

The depth and breadth of positive activities in the Sierra Nevada is truly remarkable. There is no question as to the desire, knowledge and will to address complex issues in the Region. In many cases, communities only lack the financial resources to address these issues. Through our grant program and other efforts I am pleased that we are assisting local groups and individuals make a difference. During the past year we have funded projects to protect important natural places, preserve working landscapes, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and assist communities in a variety of needed planning and assessment efforts.

Finally, I am blessed to be guided by a great Board and surrounded by a dedicated and capable staff of professionals who are passionate about our mission and our Region. Each of them plays an important role in our commitment to be an outstanding partner and putting the needs of our Region and stakeholders first. Not to mention, they make me look good!

On a personal note, this first ever Annual Report of the SNC is a reminder of the hard work of so many in the past that allows us to carry out this important mission. In particular I am once again reminded of a mentor to many of us—a man who provided much of the inspiration, strategic direction and plain old hard work necessary for the creation of this conservancy. Dennis Machida passed away before he could see the fruits of his labor with the SNC. While I am honored to serve as the first Executive Officer of the SNC, I know the seat was more than warmed up by Dennis.



"The Conservancy will not only support environmental preservation but assist the regional economy, preserve working landscapes and provide increased opportunities for tourism. It will serve as an example of economy and environment in harmony."

The 25 million acres within the new conservancy are a gift to the people of California, a gift that we have now guaranteed will keep on giving. Our children and grandchildren, visitors from far and wide, will see and enjoy the same Sierra Nevada that we value so much today."

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Tuolumne River in Summer
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ABOUT THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Mission Statement

The SNC initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Region, its communities and the citizens of California.

The SNC is a state agency within the Resources Agency created by bipartisan legislation, co-authored by Assembly members John Laird and Tim Leslie, and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2004 ([statute](#)). It was created with the understanding that



AB 2600 Signing: Assemblymember John Laird; Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources; Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; Terry Tamminen, Cal/EPA; and Assemblymember Tim Leslie.

the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada and its communities are closely linked and that the Region would benefit from an organization providing a strategic direction. The SNC is charged with a broad mission to be accomplished through a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with various partners.

The statute creating the SNC provides for seven specific program objectives (using the precise language from the statute and not in priority order):

- *Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation;*
- *Protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources;*
- *Aid in the preservation of working landscapes;*
- *Reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires;*
- *Protect and improve water and air quality;*
- *Assist the regional economy through the operation of the Conservancy's program;*
- *Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.*

The SNC's service area covers approximately 25 million acres, nearly 25 percent of California's land area, making it the largest conservancy in the State ([view map](#)). The SNC jurisdiction includes the mountains and foothills of the Sierra Nevada range, the Mono Basin, Owens Valley, the Modoc

Plateau and a part of the southern Cascade Range, including the Pit River watershed. The service area is divided into six Subregions and covers all or portions of 22 counties, from Modoc County in the north to Kern County in the south. It is one of the most significant natural and biologically diverse regions (with related socio-economic benefits) in the world.

The SNC is committed to a number of key objectives identified in the law creating it, including the following:

- *Support efforts that advance the environmental, economic and social well-being of Sierra residents in a complementary manner;*
- *Work in collaboration and cooperation with the local governments, community and regional organizations and other governmental agencies in carrying out the SNC's mission;*
- *Make every effort to ensure that, over time, SNC funding and other efforts are spread equitably across each of the various Subregions and among the program areas, with adequate allowance for the variability of costs associated with individual regions and types of projects.*
- *Inform and educate Californians throughout the state as to the substantial benefits they enjoy from the Region and the importance of the environmental and economic well-being of the Region.*

ABOUT THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

The SNC is governed by a 16-member Governing Board (Board), including 13 voting members and 3 non-voting liaisons as follows:

- *State Secretary for Resources (or his/her designee)*
- *State Director of Finance (or his/her designee)*
- *Three members of the public appointed by the Governor*
- *Two members of the public, one each appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Rules Committee*
- *Six county supervisors whose districts are within the Region, each representing one of the six Sierra Nevada Subregions*
- *Three non-voting Federal liaisons, one each from the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management*

Video: ▶ [Byron Sher, SNC Governing Boardmember](#)

Vision

The magnificent Sierra Nevada Region enjoys outstanding environmental, economic and social health with vibrant communities and landscapes sustained for future generations.

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY 2007–2008 ANNUAL REPORT



*"We do things not because it is the
way we have always done them;
we do it because it makes sense."*

**Joan Keegan
Assistant Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

Camas Lillies in Bloom
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BUILDING THE ORGANIZATION (2005–2007)

The Inaugural Governing Board

The SNC's inaugural Governing Board (Board) played an important role in the formation of the organization. The Board provided direction in the creation of the SNC budget, hiring of the Executive Officer and oversight of the initial outreach efforts.

Inaugural Boardmembers

Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources
Tom Campbell, Director, Department of Finance

Public Members

Bob Kirkwood, Governor Appointee
B.J. Kirwan, Governor Appointee
Carol Whiteside, Governor Appointee
Byron Sher, State Senate Appointee

North Sierra Subregion

Brian Dahle, Supervisor, Lassen County

North Central Sierra Subregion

Kim Yamaguchi, Supervisor, Butte County

Central Sierra Subregion

Helen Baumann, Supervisor, El Dorado County

South Central Sierra Subregion

Lee Stetson, Supervisor, Mariposa County

East Sierra Subregion

Linda Arcularius, Supervisor, Inyo County

South Sierra Subregion

Bob Waterston, Supervisor, Fresno County

Overview

Following the signing of Assembly Bill (AB) 2600 ([view video](#)), efforts began to make the SNC a reality. One of the first steps was the appointment of the inaugural Board. Governor Schwarzenegger, Assembly Speaker Nunez and the Senate Rules Committee made their respective appointments in early 2005, as did counties in each of the six Subregion's. The Board held its first organizational meeting on May 12, 2005 in Sacramento. Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman was elected Chair of the Board at that time.

During this period, the SNC was supported primarily by staff at the Resources Agency and the California Tahoe Conservancy. A budget for the organization was developed and adopted through the State budget process for fiscal year 2005–06.

During the summer of 2005 six public outreach workshops were held throughout the Region (one in each Subregion). The purpose of the workshops was to gain initial public input as to the direction that the new organization should take. Over 200 attendees provided substantial comments and suggestions. This input has been used as the SNC developed its organizational structure, Strategic Plan and Grant Program.

In October 2005 the initial staff of the SNC was hired. At that time, Jim Branham was hired as the Executive Officer and Eileen Pope as the Administrative Services Manager.

The SNC continued to be assisted by the Tahoe Conservancy and extensively used part-time employees (retired annuitants) in the development of the organization. Permanent staff was hired as roles were clearly defined, continuing into 2008.

The Strategic Plan

In January 2006 the SNC began development of a Strategic Plan to guide operations over the ensuing five years. The plan was created through an open and transparent process that included six public workshops (one in each Subregion). A number of substantive changes were made to the draft plan in response to a variety of public comment. The [final plan](#) was approved by the Board on July 20, 2006. The plan describes the vision, mission and guiding principles of the organization and provides a foundation for program development and activities to achieve the SNC's vision and mission. It also contains a number of key actions to be implemented as part of developing the organization and programs.

Serving the Region

Videos: ▶ [Bob Kingman, SNC Mt. Lassen Area Manager](#)
 ▶ [Cheryl Belcher, Executive Director, Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council](#)

In early 2006 the SNC also initiated a process to identify a suitable headquarters office for its operations. Criteria were developed to guide in the selection of a site within the Region that would best meet the needs of the Region and the organization. After considering proposals from seven different communities, the SNC selected Auburn in Placer County. The headquarters office has been located there since June, 2006.

Later in that year, a process was undertaken to identify locations for field offices to serve the communities in the Region. Given the vast area and diverse geography, the SNC carefully considered locations that would best serve the citizens of the Region. As a result of this process staff members are located in Mariposa, Susanville and Bishop. The Auburn office is the primary location serving the three most northern Subregions, while the Mariposa office serves the same function for the three most southern

Subregions. The staff members in Bishop and Susanville are located in federal office buildings and provide the primary point of contact within those areas.

Through the course of fiscal years 2006–07 and 2007–08, the SNC continued to hire staff to carry out its mission. A total of 22 [staff members](#) now work out of the four office locations.

Establishing an Identity

In late 2006 the SNC initiated a contest among high school students in the Region for the development of the organization's logo. The contest served as a great opportunity for young people to “show off” their design skills, while at the same time learn about the mission of the SNC. Over 300 designs were submitted from students from around the Region. After an evaluation process, the SNC Board selected the [winning entry](#) on May 3, 2007. The winner was Orion Day from Sonora, California. Another of Orion's submissions was used as the basis of the SNC license plate design.

The Importance of Education and Communication

Recognizing the importance of the Region to all Californians, the SNC developed the [Education and Communications Plan](#) during 2006. The plan outlines activities that the SNC and its partners can undertake to help decision makers and residents in the region and throughout the state better understand the importance of the Region and the actions necessary to protect it. Implementation of the plan is ongoing.

In January 2007 SNC staff participated in Governor Schwarzenegger's “[Green Dream](#)” event. This outreach opportunity generated local media coverage with a focus on the SNC “snowpeople” emphasizing the potential

BUILDING THE ORGANIZATION (2005–2007)

effects of climate change on the Sierra snowpack (and California's water supply). The SNC also provided the perspective of John Muir, channeled through inaugural Boardmember Lee Stetson ([listen](#)).

Investing in Sierra Nevada Watersheds and Communities

In November 2006 voters approved [Proposition 84](#), the *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006*. Included in this bond measure was a \$54 million allocation to the SNC to support projects to improve watershed health throughout the Region. In anticipation of a portion of these funds being appropriated in the 2007–08 State budget, the SNC developed the *Program Guidelines* and the *Grants Guidelines*. This process involved a total of 19 public workshops throughout the Region ([view map](#)), and workshops in Sacramento and San Francisco. Following numerous changes to the initial draft based on public comment, a final set of guidelines was approved by the Board on July 26, 2007.

Also in 2006 AB 84 was signed into law providing an opportunity for organizations such as the SNC to develop a specialized license plate. Funds generated from the sale of such a plate would be available for use by the SNC to carry out its mission. The Board approved a license plate design and the organization entered into a partnership with The Sierra Fund (a non-profit organization) to develop and implement a program to sell 7,500 plates (the number needed for the state to produce the plates). At this time, the effort is ongoing.

Video: ▶ [Joan Keegan, SNC Assistant Executive Officer](#)



Sierra Nevada Conservancy Special Interest License Plate Pending



"Sierra Nevada Conservancy's growing partnership with Yosemite National Park is a model for this type of collaboration. SNC is helping Yosemite achieve excellence through its grants to projects such as the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan. The CIP is connecting public, tribal, and private stakeholders to the interpretive and educational messages delivered in and around our national parks."

**Tom Medema, Branch Chief
Interpretive Field Operations
Yosemite National Park**

Clearing Storm, Yosemite
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2007–2008 GRANT AWARDS

Our First Year of Grant Making

Video: ▶ [Kerri Timmer, SNC Program Manager](#)

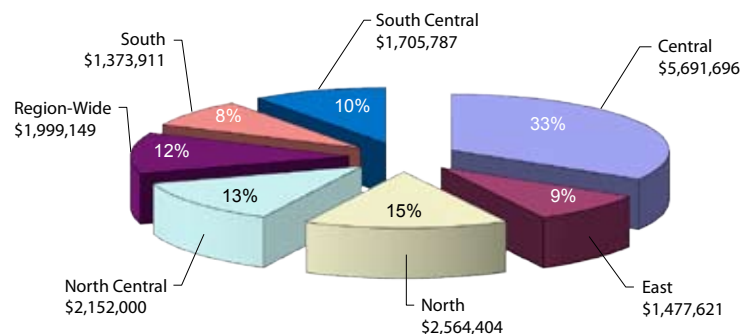
The SNC was pleased to have met its first year grant-making goal of awarding nearly \$17 million into the hands of local governments and other organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada for projects designed to advance environmental improvement and social and economic well-being in the Region. The awarded funds came from Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006.

The SNC received 230 eligible applications with requests totaling close to \$41 million. We were able to fund 146 of those requests across all six SNC Subregions, for a total State investment of \$16.9 million.

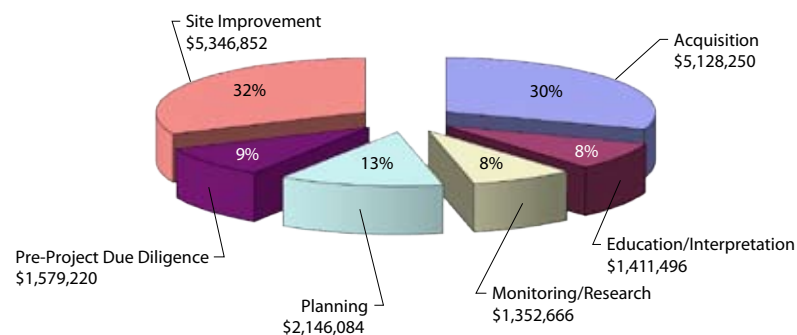
The SNC awarded two types of grants in fiscal year 2007–08—Competitive Grants and Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOG). Competitive Grants were awarded for acquisition and site improvement projects between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 without regard to geographic location. Strategic Opportunity Grants were awarded by Subregion to a variety of project types including: (a) acquisition and site improvement projects up to \$100,000; and (b), education/interpretation, monitoring/research, planning and pre-project due diligence projects. The SNC funded 18 Competitive Grants in the amount of \$8,344,335 and 128 SOGs for a total of \$8,620,233.

Most projects featured strong collaboration among partners, use of innovative approaches and/or implementation of locally based solutions designed to make a difference in the Region's communities and beyond. For a list of funded projects by Subregion and by project category and purpose, please see Appendices A and B.

Geographic Grant Distribution Fiscal Year 2007–08



Project Category Grant Distribution Fiscal Year 2007–08



Notes: Competitive Grants are awarded without regard to geographic location; fiscal year 2007–08 Competitive Grants total: \$8,344,335.
 Proposition 84 Grants Program funded by the *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006*.

The SNC provided funds to city and county governments, non-profit community organizations, state and federal agencies, local water agencies, tribal entities, fire safe councils and others to support projects in six major categories: acquisition or landowner agreements (easements), restoration or site improvement, pre-project due diligence, educational or interpretive activities, monitoring and research, and planning and design. To illustrate each category and give you a taste of the exciting work going on in the Region, we've highlighted a number of funded projects in the section below.

Restoration or Site Improvement

The SNC funded 37 projects designed to protect, improve or restore land, water or other natural resources in the Region, for a total of \$5.3 million. We've highlighted two of these projects below.

Filippini Ranch (North-Central Subregion)

Videos: [Mike Filippini, Ranch Owner](#)

▶ [Video 1](#)

▶ [Video 2](#)

The Filippini Ranch is a 1,200-acre family cattle ranch located in Sierra Valley, on the headwaters of the Feather River watershed. Streamside or “riparian” areas along one mile of stream flowing through the ranch have been damaged by cattle grazing, resulting in impacts to downstream water quality, stream function and wildlife habitat. The SNC funding is helping to build fencing to keep cattle out of the stream and will support work with students from the local Future Farmers of America and Loyalton High School ROP to replant streamside vegetation for the protection and enhancement of fish habitat, water quality, and migratory bird habitat.

The students will also be involved in long-term monitoring of the project to determine its success. The Filippini family hopes this project will serve as a model for other property owners in the area whose ranchlands are experiencing similar impacts from grazing or other uses.

Acquisition or Landowner Agreements

The SNC funded eight projects in this category, for a total of \$5.1 million. Funding went toward acquisition of property in fee title or completion of a voluntary agreement, also known as an “easement,” between a landowner and an eligible conservation organization limiting certain uses of the land to protect working farms and ranches, wildlife habitat, recreational use and other natural resources.

Bohna Ranch Conservation Easement (South-Central Subregion)

Videos: ▶ [Bridget Fithian, Sierra Foothills Conservancy](#)

▶ [Cindy Bohna, Landowner](#)

Bohna Ranch is an 840-acre family-owned cattle ranch in Mariposa County containing two streams that feed into the San Joaquin River as well as significant grassland, oak woodland and streamside habitat. The landowner is protecting the ranch and its operations into the future by placing a voluntary conservation easement on the property. Such an easement will help the landowner by providing capital for improved ranch operations and ongoing conservation activities and reducing the overall value of the property, resulting in a reduction in taxes and enabling the owner to keep the ranch in the family; it will help ensure continued water quality, quantity and habitat benefits through improvements and other requirements agreed to in the easement; and it will help the local and regional economy

2007–2008 GRANT AWARDS

by maintaining a working cattle ranch in the agricultural portion of the County. Once the project is completed, it will likely generate interest among neighboring landowners, as well, which may lead to additional conservation projects in the area.

Pre-Project Due Diligence

The SNC awarded \$1.6 to 24 projects, including pre-project analysis, permitting and other due diligence work in preparation for future acquisition, easement or restoration projects. Below is an example of one of these projects.

Coldstream Canyon Design and Permitting for Creek and Floodplain Restoration (Central Subregion)

Videos: ▶ Lisa Wallace, Executive Director, Truckee River Watershed Council
▶ Beth Christman, Program Manager, Truckee River Watershed Council
▶ Cyndi Walck, Engineering Geologist, CA Dept of Parks and Recreation

Coldstream Canyon drains a 12.5-square-mile watershed extending from the crest of the Sierra Nevada to just west of the Town of Truckee. The creek and its surrounding floodplain area have been impacted by various uses over time, from construction of the railroad and later Interstate 80 to historic timber and gravel mining activities. Together these activities have resulted in increased sediment and flooding in Coldstream Canyon and the Truckee River, as well as negative effects on habitat and watershed health. Through the collaborative efforts of the Town of Truckee, the Truckee River Watershed Council, California Department of Parks and Recreation and the private industrial landowner, this project will complete design and engineering work to remove sediment and create new floodplain areas for streamside vegetation and habitat. Once complete, this project will reduce

sedimentation into the Truckee River, reduce the risk of future flooding in Truckee and provide improved habitat for wildlife in this fast-growing area.

Education and Interpretation Activities

The SNC awarded \$1.4 million to 28 educational or interpretive projects, including curriculum development, educational events or programs, and production of outreach materials about fire risk reduction, natural resource management, water quality, climate change and other topics. One of these projects is highlighted below.

California Amer-Asian Resource Education (CARE) Environmental Ethics in the Sierra Nevada (South and South Central Subregions)

Videos: ▶ Robyn Smith, Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development
▶ Chong Yan, President CARE
▶ Tony Spada, California Department of Fish and Game, Warden
▶ Dave Martin, Bass Lake District Ranger

The California Amer-Asian Resource Education organization (CARE) is partnering with the Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council to produce a video targeted to Hmong and Laotian communities illustrating outdoor/conservation practices. While Southeast Asians make up a relatively small percentage of the area's overall population, they comprise a significant part of the public land users in these watersheds. According to CARE, members of the Southeast Asian community typically get their information verbally through radio or film, as opposed to written materials or signs. This project will develop a 20- to 30-minute video series to visually and verbally share information in Hmong and Laotian regarding camping, hunting, fishing, food gathering, and other uses of public lands in the Sierra, with the intent of engaging the Southeast

Asian community in safety and conservation concerns, reducing conflicts between user groups and supporting sustainability of public resources into the future.

Monitoring and Research

The SNC awarded \$1.4 million to 21 projects in this category, including research and monitoring related to specific resource conditions, climate change impacts, fire and other natural disaster risks, water quality and recreation use/impacts. We've highlighted one of these projects below.

Mercury Bioavailability and Transport in Deer Creek (Central Subregion)

Videos: ▶ Joanne Hild, Executive Officer, Friends of Deer Creek
▶ Saul Hensen, Hydrologist

Mercury in Sierran watersheds is one of the legacy impacts left over from the Gold Rush. The movement of mercury from places where it was abandoned by miners along Sierra streams and rivers into downstream reservoirs and beyond needs to be better understood in order to prevent mercury contamination and accumulation in the food chain. Understanding key mechanisms of mercury transport and transformation from one form (solid) to another (methylated) will allow for improved treatment of source areas, such as rock piles containing mine waste or hydraulic mining debris, and better prevention to avoid human health impacts from mercury exposure. This project uses sampling and analysis of sediment, water quality and macroinvertebrates both above and below a reservoir on Deer Creek to determine mercury movement patterns. The data collected will be used to develop recommendations for reducing methylmercury in this and other watersheds affected by gold mining in the Sierra.

Planning and Design

The SNC awarded \$2.1 million to 28 planning or design projects in this category. Projects included collaborative resource planning efforts, design of future acquisition or restoration work, and projects targeted at improving a community's or individual organization's capacity to implement protection or enhancement projects in the future. One of these projects is highlighted below.

Mammoth Lakes Basin Interagency Collaborative Planning (East Subregion)

Videos: ▶ John Wentworth, Executive Director, Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation
▶ Michael Schlafmann, Deputy District Ranger, Inyo National Forest
▶ Danna Stroud, Tourism and Recreation Director, Town of Mammoth

The Mammoth Lakes Basin attracts more than 3 million visitors annually. That level of visitation can have negative impacts on the basin's system of high country lakes, streams and other waterways that feed into the Owens River and Los Angeles Aqueduct. This collaborative planning effort involving the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the Forest Service and the non-profit Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA), will analyze transportation, circulation and recreation facilities, needs and capacity in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, resulting in development and future implementation of specific projects to improve watershed health while meeting the area's recreational needs.

Fire-Safe Projects

This year, as in many years past, fire is on people's minds in California and the Sierra. On June 20, 2008, a severe thunderstorm system moved through northern and central California sparking more than 2,000 fires that burned over a million acres destroyed 511 structures and took 15 lives. Based on summary statistics from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, major fires in Butte, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc, Mono, Plumas, Shasta and Tehama counties and lesser fires elsewhere burned some 200,000 acres in the Sierra Region.

The SNC takes this threat seriously. In its first year of grant making, the SNC awarded more than \$3 million for 31 different fire-safe projects throughout the Region, including defensible space assistance, hazardous fuel reduction, biomass removal, community chipping, fire-safe education and outreach, community wildfire protection planning, and more. One of these projects is highlighted below.

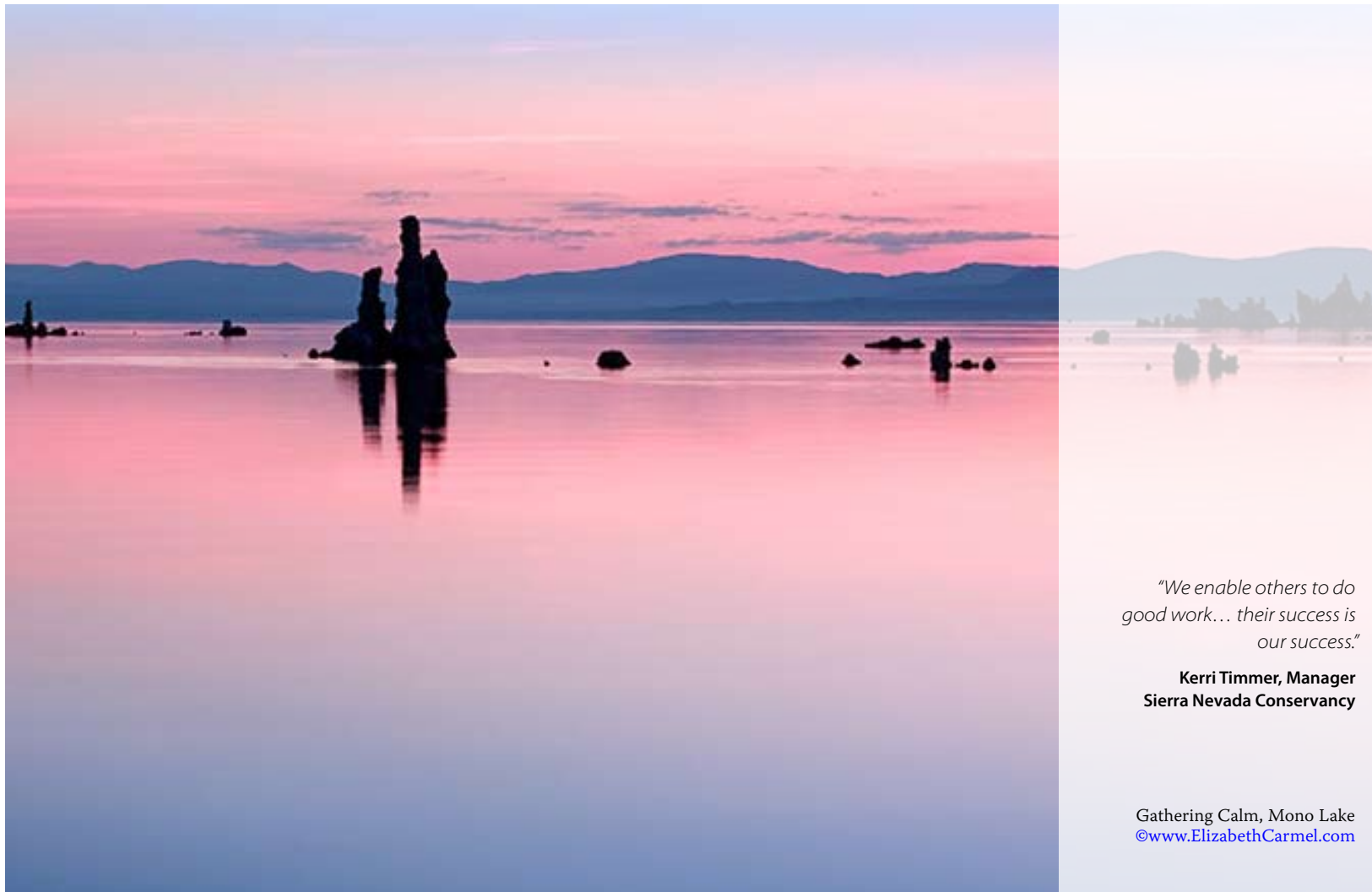
Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) (South Central Subregion)

Videos: ▶ [Steve Wilensky, SNC Governing Boardmember](#)
▶ [Brian Creekmore, Crew Boss](#)
▶ [Crewmember](#)
▶ [Homeowners](#)

The CHIPS project is a multi-benefit project that reduces fire threat while revitalizing the local economy in rural Calaveras County. CHIPS uses local crews for removal and treatment of small-diameter wood and underbrush on public and private land to reduce fire threat create a marketable product (chips for landscaping and other uses) and protect watershed health in the Mokelumne watershed. Communities in this area have been hard-hit by the closure of eight local lumber mills over the past 20 years. Funding from the SNC will help to train and provide work experience for 18–24 currently unemployed or underemployed local residents, as well as to secure additional materials for future value-added CHIPS activities, such as manufacture of wood pellets, posts and poles, composition fire logs, craftsman woodworking products, and energy generation. This project is a clear example of the “New Forest Economy,” where ecological, economic and social issues are blended into a successful outcome for the environment, the community and the economy.



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*"We enable others to do
good work... their success is
our success."*

**Kerri Timmer, Manager
Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

Gathering Calm, Mono Lake
[©www.ElizabethCarmel.com](http://www.ElizabethCarmel.com)

FEDERAL LAND MANAGERS/THE MODOC LINE

Federal Land Manager's Meeting

In April 2008 the SNC hosted the second Federal Land Manager's meeting. This well-received meeting brought Federal land managers from National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Sierra region together. Representatives of the Natural Resources Conservation Service also attended.

Sierra-wide issues were discussed and partnerships were established to address regional issues. Top priorities were established for the year and by unanimous agreement the group requested that SNC as the neutral entity, continue to organize these valuable annual meetings.



2008 Federal Land Managers and SNC Managers.

The Modoc Line

The SNC has supported efforts of Lassen and Modoc Counties, the Lassen Land and Trails Trust (LLTT) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to acquire the abandoned Union Pacific Railroad Modoc Line. The 86 mile long alignment runs from Wendel to Alturas and has acquired by the LLTT under the Federal Transportation Board's rules for Rail Banking. The acquisition was made possible through funding by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The Modoc Line will be managed under a comprehensive plan to be developed by the LLTT, the counties and BLM as a Recreational Rail Trail, providing public access and recreational opportunities in Counties of Lassen and Modoc. This project is a great example of state, local and federal governments working closely with a non-profit partnership to bring a positive local outcome.

► [Map of the Modoc Line](#)



Recreation Opportunities along the Modoc Line.



*"One of the benefits of doing
conservation easements is
that private landowners end
up becoming advocates for
land conservation."*

Bridget Fithian
Sierra Foothills Conservancy

Lake Reflections, High Sierra
[©www.ElizabethCarmel.com](http://www.ElizabethCarmel.com)

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE SIERRA

The effects of climate change on the Region are expected to be significant and could have far-reaching consequences. At the same time, the forests and communities of the Sierra Nevada have the potential to contribute positively by reducing emissions, sequestering carbon, protecting the state's primary source of water, generating renewable energy and proactively adapting to changing conditions.

Based on this understanding, the SNC convened a symposium in December 2007 featuring Dr. Dan Cayan of both the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, Mike Chrisman the California Secretary for Resources, and other experts in the field to learn more about:

- *potential impacts and consequences to the Region, such as expected changes in precipitation and temperature and their effects on the state's water supply, forest health, wildlife habitat and local economies;*
- *Sierra-specific tools and community strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to anticipated impacts in the Region.*

Following the symposium, based on input from attendees and other stakeholders, the SNC Governing Board directed staff to pursue development of a Climate Change Initiative for the Region. The SNC staff is working with local stakeholders, other agencies and the public to develop an effort based on the following general principles:

- *target efforts to add value and address "gaps" in knowledge or activity;*
- *collaborate and coordinate widely;*
- *avoid duplication of efforts;*
- *adopt a bias for action—avoid over-analysis and process gridlock; and*
- *focus on both adaptation and mitigation.*

The SNC continues to work closely with the Resources Agency, the California Tahoe Conservancy, the U.S. Forest Service and key stakeholder groups to identify the key elements of a recommended action plan. It is anticipated that a specific action plan will be completed in early 2009.

Audio: ► [KXJZ Interviews](#)

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY 2007–2008 ANNUAL REPORT



*"The dollars the Conservancy has
spent on public lands has been a
wise use of State monies."*

Mike Chapel
US Forest Service

Bodie State Historic Park
Photo courtesy of Pete Dufour

BUDGET AND FISCAL ACTIVITY

The SNC carries out a broad mission across 25 million acres and all or part of 22 counties. SNC staff works closely with local stakeholders providing technical assistance, convening and facilitation and assisting with project development. The SNC has staff located in four locations throughout the Sierra to effectively meet this mission.

The SNC's support budget, which provides the base operational funds for the organization, consists of funding from the California Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF). This funding is used for salary and benefits of 19 full-time staff members, organizational operational costs and various other activities necessary for the SNC to conduct its business. As a small organization the SNC uses interagency agreements to efficiently meet

needs such as personnel and accounting services. The SNC also uses part-time employees (retired annuitants and students) as appropriate.

During fiscal years 2005–06 and 2006–07 the SNC was involved in a number of start-up activities. Initial staff hiring began in 2005–06 and continued through 2007–08. During this period, office locations, necessary equipment and vehicles were secured. Table 1 shows the amounts appropriated to the SNC each year since its inception, as well as the amounts actually expended. Funds reverted in each of these three fiscal years primarily reflect savings in personnel costs due to the amount of time required to fully staff the organization.

Table 1. Amounts Budgeted and Actual Expenditures
Fiscal Years 2005-06 Through 2007-08 (Amounts in Thousands of Dollars)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
ELPF—Support Budget	\$ 3,381	\$ 3,816	\$ 3,952
Proposition 84			
Administrative Funds	—	—	506
Local Assistance	—	—	17,000
Total Amount Budgeted	\$ 3,381	\$ 3,816	\$ 21,458
Actual Expenditures	2,139	2,704	21,162
Savings	\$ 1,242	\$ 1,112	\$ 296

Commencing with the 2007–08 fiscal year, local assistance (grant) and grant administration funding was also provided from the *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006* (Proposition 84). The SNC awarded nearly \$17 million in grants to eligible entities across the Region in 2007–08. Approximately \$500,000 was expended for grant administration activities (funding of 5 staff positions). As discussed in the 2007–08 Grant Awards section of this report, these funds leveraged significant additional investment in the Region and will result in significant accomplishments consistent with the SNC’s statutory responsibilities. A more detailed budget summary for 2007–08 is provided in Table 2.

BUDGET AND FISCAL ACTIVITY

Table 2. Fiscal Year 2007–08 Budgeted and Actual Expenditures
(Dollars in Whole Numbers)

STATE OPERATIONS

Personnel Services	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries and Wages	\$ 1,351,738	\$ 1,183,599
Salary Savings	–58,515	—
Staff Benefits	402,926	362,593
Personnel Services, Totals	\$ 1,696,149	\$ 1,546,192
Operating Expenses & Equipment	Budgeted	Actual
General Expense	\$ 261,851	\$ 153,153
Travel—In State	100,000	76,558
Travel—Out of State	2,000	—
Training	20,000	17,601
Facilities	187,000	242,990
Utilities	15,000	11,433
Information Technology	4,000	44,016
Contracts—External	740,000	757,288
Contracts—Interagency Agreement	1,234,000	1,285,134
Consolidated Data Center	5,000	998
Equipment	144,000	51,535
Other Items of Expense	5,000	8,320
Pro Rata (Control Agency Costs)	44,000	44,254
Operating Expenses & Equipment, Totals	\$ 2,761,851	\$ 2,693,280
State Operations, Totals	\$ 4,458,000	\$ 4,239,472

EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE

State Operations	Budgeted	Actual
Environmental License Plate Fund	\$ 3,952,000	\$ 3,888,537
Proposition 84	506,000	350,935
State Operations, Totals	\$ 4,458,000	\$ 4,239,472
Local Assistance Grants		
Proposition 84	\$ 17,000,000	\$ 16,922,251
Local Assistance Grants, Totals	\$ 17,000,000	\$ 16,922,251

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

	Budgeted	Actual
State Operations, Totals	\$ 4,458,000	\$ 4,239,472
Local Assistance Grants, Totals	\$ 17,000,000	\$ 16,922,251
Expenditures, Totals	\$ 21,458,000	\$ 21,161,723



"I simply cannot say enough about the positive impact the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has had on our community. In addition to the financial support of projects, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has focused attention on vital ecological and social issues that must be addressed. They have provided opportunities for school children, businesses, government agencies, and community members."

Terry McLaughlin
Upper Merced River Watershed Council

Colors of Summer, High Sierra
[©www.ElizabethCarmel.com](http://www.ElizabethCarmel.com)

GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board is made up of 16 members; 13 voting and 3 non-voting members. The voting members include 5 Governor's appointees, 2 legislative appointees, and 6 Local Government representatives. Each of the six Subregions are represented by a member of the Board of Supervisors from a county within the Subregion (selected by the counties), serving 2-year terms.

Governor's Appointees

Mike Chrisman Chair, Secretary for Resources
John Lloyd Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Bob Kirkwood Public Member
B. J. Kirwan Public Member
Carol Whiteside Public Member

Legislative Appointees

Bryon Sher Senate Rules Committee
John Brissenden Speaker of the Assembly

Local Government's Appointees

Brian Dahle North Sierra Subregion
Supervisor, Lassen County
Rose Comstock North Central Sierra Subregion
Supervisor, Plumas County
Robert Weygandt Vice Chair, Central Sierra Subregion
Supervisor, Placer County
Steve Wilensky South Central Sierra Subregion
Supervisor, Calaveras County
Byng Hunt East Sierra Subregion
Supervisor, Mono County
John McQuiston South Sierra Subregion
Supervisor, Kern County

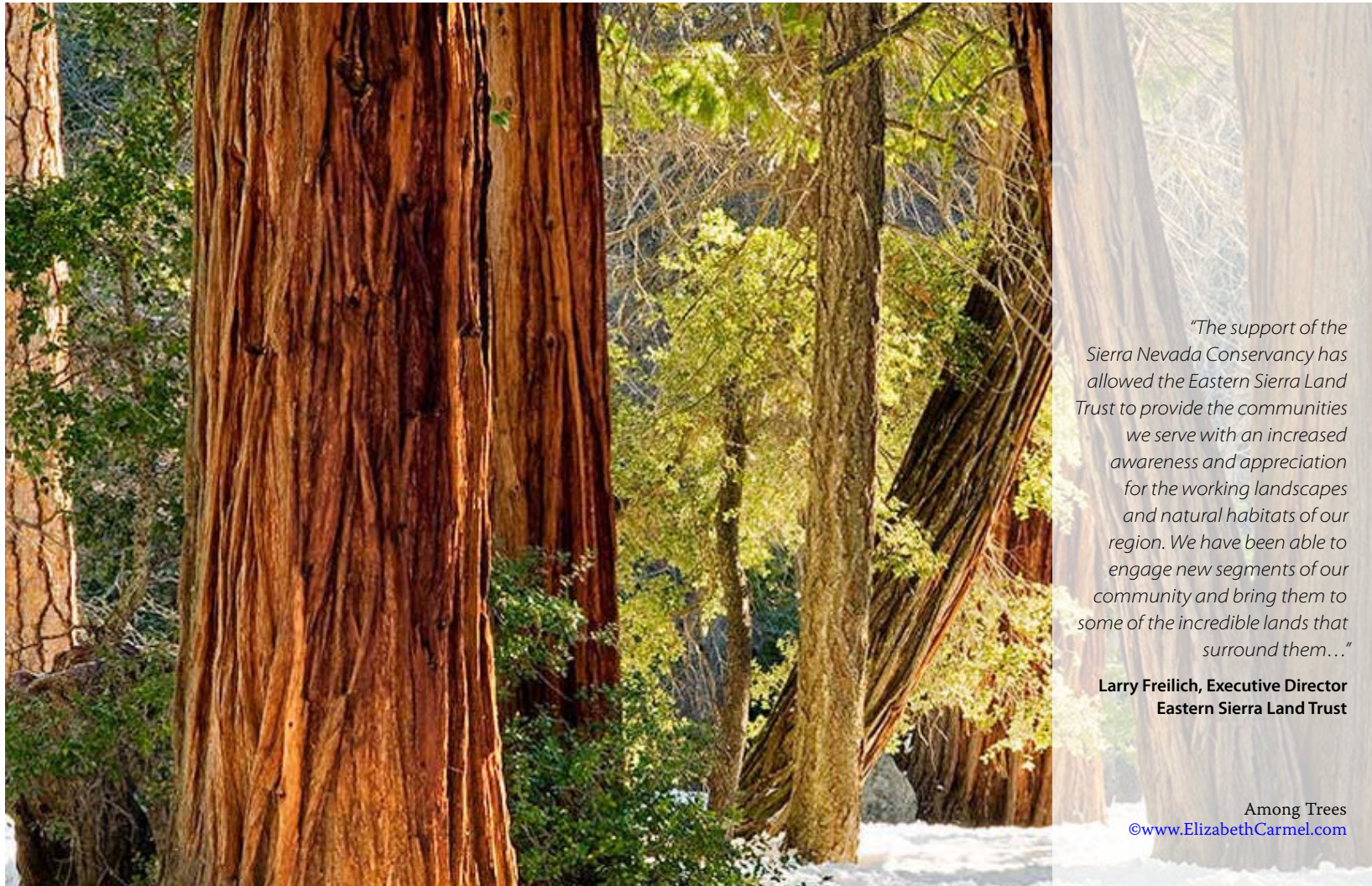
The non-voting members serve as liaison advisors as follows:
one representative of the National Park Service, designated by the Secretary of the Interior; one representative of the U.S. Forest Service, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture; and one representative of the Bureau of Land Management, designated by the Secretary of the Interior.

Non-Voting Liaison Advisors

Bill Haigh Bureau of Land Management
Beth Pendleton U.S. Forest Service
Mike Tollefson National Park Service

Previous Governing Boardmembers

North Central Sierra Subregion Kim Yamaguchi, 2005–07
Central Sierra Subregion Helen Baumann, 2005–07
South Central Sierra Subregion Lee Stetson, 2005–06
Louis Boitano, 2006–07
East Sierra Subregion Linda Arcularius, 2005–07
South Sierra Subregion Bob Waterston, 2005–06
Allen Ishida, 2006–07



"The support of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has allowed the Eastern Sierra Land Trust to provide the communities we serve with an increased awareness and appreciation for the working landscapes and natural habitats of our region. We have been able to engage new segments of our community and bring them to some of the incredible lands that surround them..."

**Larry Freilich, Executive Director
Eastern Sierra Land Trust**

Among Trees
[©www.ElizabethCarmel.com](http://www.ElizabethCarmel.com)

STAFF

Executive Staff

Jim Branham Executive Officer
Joan Keegan Assistant Executive Officer
Theresa Burgess Board Liaison/Policy Analyst

Program Staff

Kerri Timmer Program Manager
Marji Feliz Funding & Resource Development Coordinator
Angela Avery Grants Program Coordinator
Shana Avalos Outreach and Partnership Program Coordinator
Lynn Campbell Grants Program Analyst

Mt. Lassen Staff

Bob Kingman Mt. Lassen Area Manager
Linda Hansen Mt. Lassen Area Senior Representative
Chris Dallas Mt. Lassen Area Representative
Julie Griffith-Flatter Mt. Lassen Area Representative
Brittany Juergenson Mt. Lassen Area Analyst

Mt. Whitney Staff

Kim Carr Mt. Whitney Area Manager
Julie Bear Mt. Whitney Area Senior Representative
Brandon Sanders Mt. Whitney Area Representative
Elizabeth van Wagtendonk Mt. Whitney Area Analyst
Wendy Vittands Mt. Whitney Area Analyst

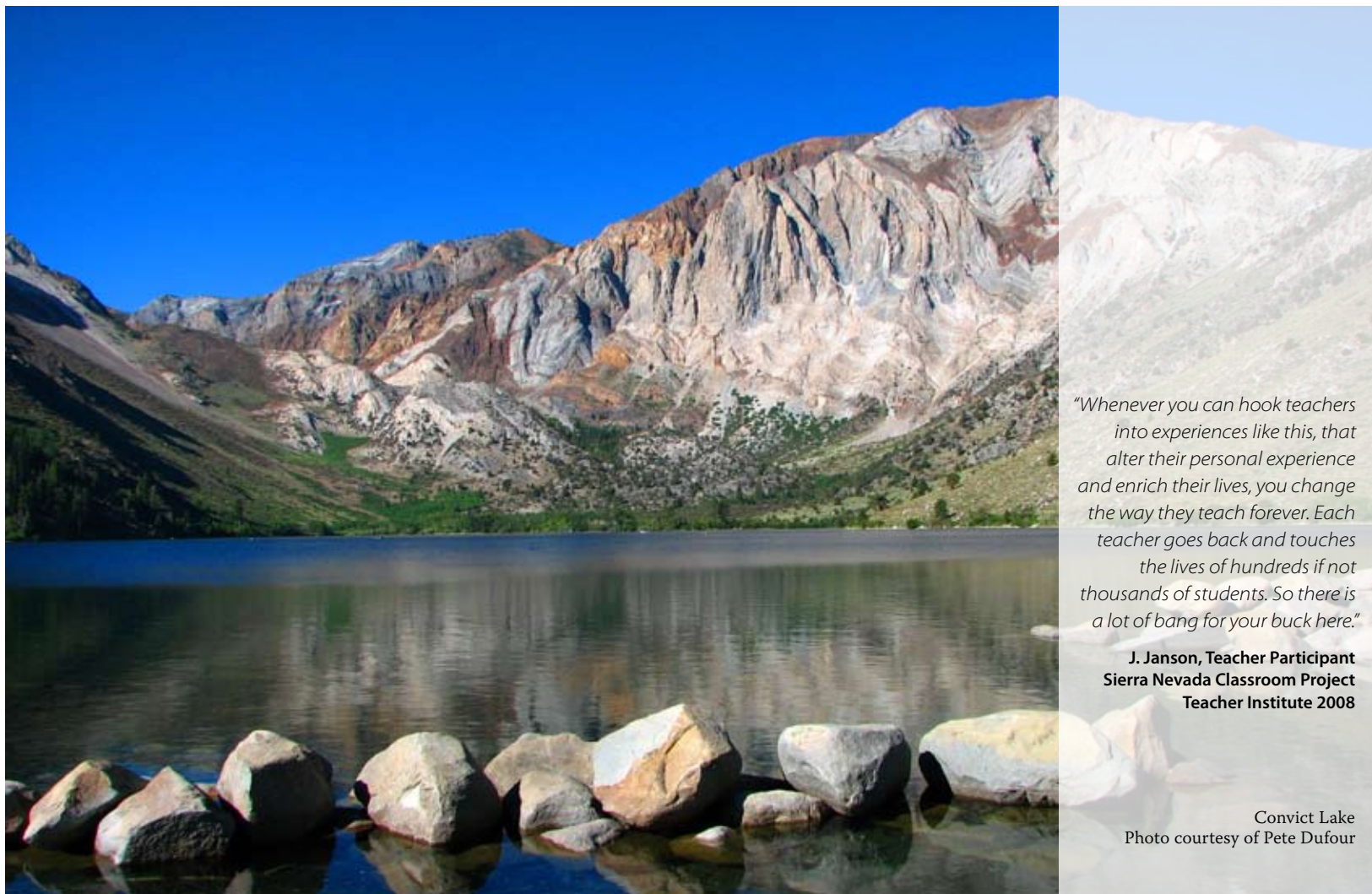
Administrative Staff

Pete Dufour Administrative Services Manager
Shelly Owens Departmental Administrative Coordinator
Dave Madrigal Information Technology Analyst
Laurie Keith Office Technician
Rita Adair Human Resources

A Special Thank You

The SNC would like to thank the staff both past and present for making the SNC a great place to work.

- Caren Hamilton
- Dennis Hutcheson
- Ken Jones
- Rhonda Keohane
- Vickie Key
- John Knott
- Jan Martell
- Ginny Matty
- Ken McKowan
- Diana Metts
- Gary Pavusko
- Eileen Pope
- Jennifer Stasiak
- Charlie Willard



"Whenever you can hook teachers into experiences like this, that alter their personal experience and enrich their lives, you change the way they teach forever. Each teacher goes back and touches the lives of hundreds if not thousands of students. So there is a lot of bang for your buck here."

**J. Janson, Teacher Participant
Sierra Nevada Classroom Project
Teacher Institute 2008**

Convict Lake
Photo courtesy of Pete Dufour

APPENDIX A: FISCAL YEAR 2007–08 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY SUBREGION

Project Title	Central Sierra Subregion	Grant Amount
2008 California Forestry Challenge		\$ 35,000
Alpine Meadows Community Consolidated Fuels Reduction Project		176,375
American River Educational Outreach Publications		48,500
Assessing and Restoring Deer Creek Watershed		75,000
Canyon View Watershed and Habitat Restoration Project		298,550
Coldstream Canyon: Design and Permitting for Creek and Floodplain Restoration		91,500
Collins Lake Acquisition Project (Siller Property)		925,750
Eastern Placer Creek Signage		15,000
Environmental Review: Assessing the Impacts of Removing Mercury-Laden Sediment From Combie Reservoir		100,000
FSCNC Defensible Space Advisory		10,632
Green Fields of Golden Sierra		300,000
Hangtown Creek Comprehensive Watershed Plan		130,635
Hidden Falls Regional Park—Fuel Load Reduction and Related Fire Safe Activities		506,207
Hidden Falls Regional Park—Trail Connectivity Studies		140,000
Inventory and Geographic Reference of Firefighting Water Resources		64,900
Low Impact Development Guidebook		45,000
Mercury Bioavailability and Transport in Deer Creek Over Lake Wildwood Reservoir		44,467
Nevada County (FIRST) Community Shaded Fuelbreak and Riparian Forest Restoration Project		406,000
Nevada County (FIRST) Defensible Space Education and Compliance Program		49,500
Nevada County (FIRST) Defensible Space Recognition and Home Tour		18,000
Phase 2, Lower Squaw Creek Restoration		49,900
South Fork American River (SFAR) Water Quality and Recreation Study		118,236
Squaw Valley Park Fuels Reduction and Related FireSafe Activities		245,500
US Hwy 40 (Donner Pass Road) Shoulder Rehabilitation		500,000
Vegetation Management: Forest Thinning, Brush Mastication and Prescribed Burning		214,044
Yuba River Wildlife and Recreation Area; Conservation and Acquisition Program Phase 1		45,000
Yuba River Wildlife Area—Rice's Crossing Priority Acquisition Project Phase II		1,000,000
Esoteric Fraternity Property—Due Diligence Studies *		38,000
Central Sierra Total		\$ 5,691,696

*This grant was authorized by the SNC Governing Board, but not executed.

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Project Title	East Sierra Subregion	Grant Amount
(MLTPA CAMP) Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Concept and Master Planning		\$ 120,099
Alpine Watershed Group Water Quality Monitoring Program, Years 4–5		60,901
Celebrating Conservation—Benton Hot Springs Valley		18,435
East Walker River Assessment and Watershed Plan		81,860
Eastern Sierra Citizen Watershed Assessments		45,000
Eastern Sierra IRWMP Launch Project		49,663
Eastern Sierra Watershed Project		91,600
Inyo and Mono Counties Community Based Land Tenure Planning		157,550
Inyo Forest Restoration and Conservation Project		58,000
Lower Owens River Project Recreational Use Plan		95,350
Lower Owens River Watershed Habitat Improvement Project		156,622
Mammoth Lakes Basin Interagency Collaborative Planning		196,000
Mill City Fuels Reduction Project		199,998
Mono Basin Resource Stewardship		96,100
Swauger Creek Shaded Fuelbreak and Habitat Improvement		25,000
Twin Lakes Drainage Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project		25,443
East Central Sierra Total		\$ 1,477,621

APPENDIX A: FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY SUBREGION

Project Title	North Sierra Subregion	Grant Amount
Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative—Project Coordinator	\$	48,400
Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative		98,500
Central Modoc River Center Capacity Building Project		23,500
Day Lassen Bench Fuel Reduction and Watershed Restoration Project		99,999
Hulsman Ranch Conservation Easement		35,000
Lower Ash Creek Restoration Planning Project		53,600
McBride Springs/Willow Creek Restoration Planning and Development Project		33,100
McClelland/Eagle Lake Ranch Appraisal		7,700
Modoc Line Land Acquisition Evaluation and Management Plan		39,090
Parkville Ranch Conservation Easement		546,000
Pit River Planning and Development Project		137,300
Rickert Ranch Conservation Easement		1,000,000
Robber's Creek Mill Site "How To" Guide		48,000
South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project		99,999
South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project/Ash Valley		99,999
Susanville Fuel Reduction and Watershed Restoration Project		142,497
Watershed Restoration Projects, Planning and Development		51,720
North Central Sierra Total	\$	2,564,404

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Project Title	North Central Sierra Subregion	Grant Amount
"Planning to Plan" for Better Integration of Water Management Among Local Governments in the North Central Sierra Region	\$	48,446
Big Chico Creek Watershed Linkage Project		15,000
Defensible Space Chipper Program		98,445
Developing a Working Landscapes Watershed Management Plan for the Almanor Basin		92,329
Feather Falls Shaded Fuel Break Phase III		98,980
Feather River College Hatchery		70,000
Feather River College Hatchery—Project Fish – Education and Tourism		26,875
Filippini Ranch Riparian Restoration		92,000
Grizzly Creek Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project		12,300
Lemon Canyon Ranch		50,000
Merrill Davies Stream and Meadow Restoration		152,000
Middle Fork Feather River Noxious Weed Management Project		45,010
Plumas County FSC Educational and Publication Development Project		27,000
Plumas County Trails Master Plan		30,000
Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Acquisitions—Biehl Parcel on Lusk Meadow		41,500
Sierra Buttes/Lakes Land Appraisals and Acquisitions (Appraisal Phase)		41,000
Sierra Valley RCD Watershed Outreach Event Proposal		8,445
Sierra Valley Sub-Basin Modeling Project		29,000
Sulphur Creek Bank Stabilization Demonstration Project Environmental Review		7,500
Sulphur/Barry Creek Confluence Restoration Project Environmental Review		19,530
Tuscan Headwaters Project		146,640
Heart K Ranch Project*		1,000,000
North Central Sierra Total	\$	2,152,000

*This grant was authorized by the SNC Governing Board, but not executed.

APPENDIX A: FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY SUBREGION

Project Title	South Sierra Subregion	Grant Amount
Agri-Nature Tourism Small Business Development Workshops for Fresno and Tulare Counties	\$	20,000
Audubon California Kern River Preserve Visitor Facility Planning Project		152,000
Big Meadows Restoration Project		29,655
CARE Environmental Ethics in the Sierra Nevada Video		50,000
Community Wildfire Protection Plan		1,617
Crystal Cave Solar Generation Project		211,500
Develop Visitor Access and Outdoor Education Plan for Blue Oak Ranch Preserve		22,468
Northern Tulare County-Community Wildfire Protection Plan		59,000
Prevention/Education Program and Council Development		10,000
Rangers in the Classroom		65,000
Revive the San Joaquin, San Joaquin River Restoration Stewards Partnership Network		69,769
Southern Sierra IRWMP Launch Project		49,950
Southern Tulare County Community Wildfire Protection Plan		54,000
Tule River Environmental Review		140,000
Tule River Improvement Project		99,999
Tule River Site Improvement Project II		149,428
Tule River Watershed Restoration Project		93,776
Visitor Access/Outdoor Education Plan and Visitor Guide for Homer Ranch and Dry Creek Preserves		45,750
Welcome to the Foothills, A Guide to Living Lightly in ___ County		49,999
South Sierra Total	\$	1,373,911

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Project Title	South Central Sierra Subregion	Grant Amount
Amador County Watershed Stewardship Project		\$ 173,780
Bohna Ranch Conservation Easement		590,000
Calaveras County Conservation Planning Project: Integrating Habitat and Open Space Protection Into the County's General Plan Update (Phase One)		46,000
Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions Project (CHIPS)		48,629
Cattle Drive Trail Shaded Fuel Break Phase 3		48,519
Central Sierra Resource Mapping		47,850
Defensible Space Inspection Program		19,625
Love Creek Working Forest Conservation Easement		25,000
Love Creek Working Forest Project—Phase II		75,000
Mariposa County Chipping Program		115,787
Mariposa County Defensible Space Assistance/Hazardous Fuel Chipping Program Phase I (Cutting and Piling)		99,970
Merced River Center, Phase I, Building Renovation		93,108
Oakvale Ranch		7,500
Pine Grove Planning Unit, Community Wildfire Protection Plan		50,000
Pioneer / Volcano Planning Unit Community Wildfire Protection Plan		50,000
Planning, Coordination and Education Expenses		69,911
Regional Water and Wastewater Reconnaissance Study for Hwy 4 Corridor		32,610
Sierra Nevada Foothills Native Plant Demonstration Garden		63,998
Tuolumne County Water Quality Plan Coordinated Watershed Management Program		48,500
South Central Sierra Total		\$ 1,705,787

APPENDIX A: FISCAL YEAR 2007–08 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY SUBREGION

Project Title	Region-wide	Grant Amount
Aquatic Invasives Brochure		\$ 3,205
Biomass Removal on National Forest Lands		49,500
California Rangeland Trust Sierra Nevada Rangeland Assessment Project		49,500
Central Sierra Smart Growth Conference		20,000
Comprehensive Interpretive Plan—Yosemite National Park and Surrounding Communities		23,250
Enhancing Water Supply and Improving Dam Operations Through Improved Upstream Forest Management		80,000
Environmental Benefits of Grazing Educational Tour and Video		68,000
Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program		283,480
Fuel Treatment Monitoring and Educational Publication		55,620
Kern Plateau Stream and Riparian Restoration		91,300
Learning Landscapes		61,820
Northern Sierra Carbon Cooperative—Ecosystem Services Inventory		45,000
Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council—Sierra Cascade Foothill Region Conservation		76,675
Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project		123,000
Sierra Nevada Alliance: Land and Water Project		150,000
Sierra Nevada Classroom Project (SNCP)		104,640
Sierra Nevada Science Institute: Development of a Timeline and Business Plan		32,500
Sierra Nevada Trails and Recreation Initiative—Planning		33,750
Sierra Nevada Trails and Recreation Initiative—Project		50,000
Sierra Water Trust: Building Capacity in the Sierra Nevada to Assess and Fulfill Critical Flow Augmentation Needs		45,000
Stewardship Contracting Workshops		46,440
Tuolumne Ditch System Sustainability Project		350,000
Watersheds and Protected Lands for the Sierra Nevada		71,860
Yuba 2010: Tools and Capacity for Community Supported Watershed Science, Protection and Restoration		84,609
Region-wide Total		\$ 1,999,149
Grand Total		\$ 16,964,568

APPENDIX B: FISCAL YEAR 2007–08 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY PROJECT CATEGORY

Project Category	Project Purpose	Project Title	Total
Acquisition	Habitat	Parkville Ranch Conservation Easement	\$ 546,000
		Habitat Total	546,000
	Natural Resource	Collins Lake Acquisition Project (Siller Property)	925,750
		Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Acquisitions—Biehl Parcel on Lusk Meadow	41,500
		Natural Resource Total	967,250
	Recreation Use/Impact/Access	Yuba River Wildlife Area—Rice's Crossing Priority Acquisition Project Phase II	1,000,000
		Recreation Use/Impact/Access Total	1,000,000
	Working Landscapes	Bohna Ranch Conservation Easement	590,000
		Love Creek Working Forest Conservation Easement	25,000
		Rickert Ranch Conservation Easement	1,000,000
		Heart K Ranch Project *	1,000,000
Working Landscapes Total		2,615,000	
Acquisition Total		\$ 5,128,250	
Education/Interpretation	Climate Change/Carbon Sequestration	Rangers in the Classroom	65,000
		Climate Change/Carbon Sequestration Total	65,000
	Habitat	Central Modoc River Center Capacity Building Project	23,500
		Habitat Total	23,500
	Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire)	Defensible Space Inspection Program	19,625
		FSCNC Defensible Space Advisory	10,632
		Fuel Treatment Monitoring and Educational Publication	55,620
		Nevada County (FIRST) Defensible Space Education and Compliance Program	49,500
		Nevada County (FIRST) Defensible Space Recognition and Home Tour	18,000
		Plumas Co. FSC Educational and Publication Development Project	27,000
		Prevention/Education Program and Council Development	10,000
		Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire) Total	190,377
	Natural Resource	2008 California Forestry Challenge	35,000
		Feather River College Hatchery—Project Fish – Education and Tourism	26,875
		Sierra Nevada Classroom Project (SNCP)	104,640
Natural Resource Total		166,515	

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APPENDIX B: FISCAL YEAR 2007–08 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY PROJECT CATEGORY

Project Category	Project Purpose	Project Title	Total
Education/Interpretation <i>(continued)</i>	Recreation Use/Impact/Access	American River Educational Outreach Publications	\$ 48,500
		Eastern Placer Creek Signage	15,000
		<i>Recreation Use/Impact/Access Total</i>	63,500
	Resource Development	Agri-Nature Tourism Small Business Development Workshops for Fresno and Tulare Counties	20,000
		<i>Resource Development Total</i>	20,000
	Resource Management	Aquatic Invasives Brochure	3,205
		CARE Environmental Ethics in the Sierra Nevada Video	50,000
		Central Sierra Smart Growth Conference	20,000
		Low Impact Development Guidebook	45,000
		Robber's Creek Mill Site "How To" Guide	48,000
		Sierra Nevada Alliance: Land and Water Project	150,000
		Stewardship Contracting Workshops	46,440
		Welcome to the Foothills, A Guide to Living Lightly in __ County	49,999
		<i>Resource Management Total</i>	412,644
	Water Quality	Eastern Sierra Watershed Project	91,600
		Sierra Valley RCD Watershed Outreach Event Proposal	8,445
		<i>Water Quality Total</i>	100,045
	Working Landscapes	Celebrating Conservation—Benton Hot Springs Valley	18,435
		Environmental Benefits of Grazing Educational Tour and Video	68,000
		Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program	283,480
		<i>Working Landscapes Total</i>	369,915
		Education/Interpretation Total	\$ 1,411,496
Monitoring/Research	Climate Change/Carbon Sequestration	Northern Sierra Carbon Cooperative—Ecosystem Services Inventory	45,000
		<i>Climate Change/Carbon Sequestration Total</i>	45,000
	Habitat	Middle Fork Feather River Noxious Weed Management Project	45,010
		<i>Habitat Total</i>	45,010
	Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire)	Inventory and Geographic Reference of Firefighting Water Resources	64,900
		<i>Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire) Total</i>	64,900
	Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Other)	Hangtown Creek Comprehensive Watershed Plan	130,635
		<i>Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Other) Total</i>	130,635

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Project Category	Project Purpose	Project Title	Total
Monitoring/Research <i>(continued)</i>	Natural Resource	2008 California Forestry Challenge	\$ 47,850
		Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council—Sierra Cascade Foothill Region Conservation	76,675
		Watersheds and Protected Lands for the Sierra Nevada	71,860
		<i>Natural Resource Total</i>	196,385
	Recreation Use/Impact/Access	(MLTPA CAMP) Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Concept and Master Planning	120,099
		Eastern Sierra Citizen Watershed Assessments	45,000
		<i>Recreation Use/Impact/Access Total</i>	165,099
	Resource Management	Calaveras County Conservation Planning Project: Integrating Habitat and Open Space Protection Into the County's General Plan Update (Phase One)	46,000
		Enhancing Water Supply and Improving Dam Operations Through Improved Upstream Forest Management	80,000
		Revive the San Joaquin, San Joaquin River Restoration Stewards Partnership Network	69,769
		Sierra Valley Sub-Basin Modeling Project	29,000
		Sierra Water Trust: Building Capacity in the Sierra Nevada to Assess and Fulfill Critical Flow Augmentation Needs	45,000
		<i>Resource Management Total</i>	269,769
	Water Quality	Alpine Watershed Group Water Quality Monitoring Program, Years 4–5	60,901
		Big Meadows Restoration Project	29,655
		California Rangeland Trust Sierra Nevada Rangeland Assessment Project	49,500
		Mercury Bioavailability and Transport in Deer Creek over Lake Wildwood Reservoir	44,467
		South Fork American River (SFAR) Water Quality and Recreation Study	118,236
		Tuolumne County Water Quality Plan Coordinated Watershed Management Program	48,500
		Yuba 2010: Tools and Capacity for Community Supported Watershed Science, Protection and Restoration	84,609
		<i>Water Quality Total</i>	435,868
		Monitoring/Research Total	\$ 1,352,666

APPENDIX B: FISCAL YEAR 2007–08 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY PROJECT CATEGORY

Project Category	Project Purpose	Project Title	Total
Planning	Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire)	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	\$ 1,617
		Northern Tulare County-Community Wildfire Protection Plan	59,000
		Pine Grove Planning Unit, Community Wildfire Protection Plan	\$50,000
		Pioneer / Volcano Planning Unit Community Wildfire Protection Plan	50,000
		Planning, Coordination and Education Expenses	69,911
		Southern Tulare County-Community Wildfire Protection Plan	54,000
		Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire) Total	
	Natural Resource	East Walker River Assessment and Watershed Plan	81,860
		Natural Resource Total	
	Recreation Use/Impact/Access	Comprehensive Interpretive Plan—Yosemite National Park and Surrounding Communities	23,250
		Develop Visitor Access and Outdoor Education Plan for Blue Oak Ranch Preserve	22,468
		Lower Owens River Project Recreational Use Plan	95,350
		Mammoth Lakes Basin Interagency Collaborative Planning	196,000
		Plumas County Trails Master Plan	30,000
		Sierra Nevada Trails and Recreation Initiative—Planning	33,750
		Visitor Access/Outdoor Education Plan and Visitor Guide for Homer Ranch and Dry Creek Preserves	45,750
	Recreation Use/Impact/Access Total		446,568
	Resource Management	“Planning to Plan” for Better Integration of Water Management Among Local Governments in the North Central Sierra Region	48,446
		Amador County Watershed Stewardship Project	173,780
		Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative—Project Coordinator	48,400
		Developing a Working Landscapes Watershed Management Plan for the Almanor Basin	92,329
		Inyo and Mono Counties Community Based Land Tenure Planning	157,550
		Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project	123,000
		Southern Sierra IRWMP Launch Project	49,950
		Tuolumne Ditch System Sustainability Project	350,000
Resource Management Total		1,043,455	

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Project Category	Project Purpose	Project Title	Total
Planning <i>(continued)</i>	Water Quality	Assessing and Restoring Deer Creek Watershed	\$ 75,000
		Eastern Sierra Watershed Project	49,663
		Phase 2, Lower Squaw Creek Restoration	49,900
		Regional Water and Wastewater Reconnaissance Study for Hwy 4 Corridor	32,610
		Sierra Nevada Science Institute: Development of a Timeline and Business Plan	32,500
		<i>Water Quality Total</i>	239,673
	Working Landscapes	Lemon Canyon Ranch	50,000
		<i>Working Landscapes Total</i>	50,000
		Planning Total	\$ 2,146,084
Pre-Project Due Diligence	Habitat	Big Chico Creek Watershed Linkage Project	15,000
		Hulsman Ranch Conservation Easement	35,000
		<i>Habitat Total</i>	50,000
	Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire)	Swauger Creek Shaded Fuelbreak and Habitat Improvement	25,000
		Twin Lakes Drainage Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project	25,443
		<i>Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire) Total</i>	50,443
	Natural Resource	Learning Landscapes	61,820
		Lower Ash Creek Restoration Planning Project	53,600
		Sierra Buttes/Lakes Land Appraisals and Acquisitions (Appraisal Phase)	41,000
		Tule River Environmental Review	140,000
		Watershed Restoration Projects, Planning and Development	142,497
		<i>Natural Resource Total</i>	438,917
	Recreation Use/Impact/Access	Audubon California Kern River Preserve Visitor Facility Planning Project	152,000
		Hidden Falls Regional Park—Trail Connectivity Studies	140,000
		Modoc Line Land Acquisition Evaluation and Management Plan	39,090
		Yuba River Wildlife and Recreation Area; Conservation and Acquisition Program Phase 1	45,000
		<i>Recreation Use/Impact/Access Total</i>	376,090
	Resource Management	McBride Springs/Willow Creek Restoration Planning and Development Project	33,100
		<i>Resource Management Total</i>	33,100

APPENDIX B: FISCAL YEAR 2007–08 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY PROJECT CATEGORY

Project Category	Project Purpose	Project Title	Total
Pre-Project Due Diligence <i>(continued)</i>	Water Quality	Coldstream Canyon: Design and Permitting for Creek and Floodplain Restoration	\$ 91,500
		Environmental Review: Assessing the Impacts of Removing Mercury-Laden Sediment from Combie Reservoir	100,000
		McClelland/Eagle Lake Ranch Appraisal	7,700
		Pit River Planning and Development Project	137,300
		Sulphur Creek Bank Stabilization Demonstration Project Environmental Review	7,500
		Sulphur/Barry Creek Confluence Restoration Project Environmental Review	19,530
		Tuscan Headwaters Project	146,640
		Water Quality Total	
	Working Landscapes	Love Creek Working Forest Project—Phase II	75,000
		Oakvale Ranch	7,500
		Esoteric Fraternity Property *—Due Diligence Studies	38,000
		Working Landscapes Total	
Pre-Project Due Diligence Total		\$ 1,579,220	

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Project Category	Project Purpose	Project Title	Total
Site Improvement	Habitat	Canyon View Watershed and Habitat Restoration Project	\$ 298,550
		<i>Habitat Total</i>	298,550
	Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire)	Alpine Meadows Community Consolidated Fuels Reduction Project	176,375
		Biomass Removal on National Forest Lands	49,500
		Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions Project (CHIPS)	48,629
		Cattle Drive Trail Shaded Fuel Break Phase 3	48,519
		Day Lassen Bench Fuel Reduction and Watershed Restoration Project	99,999
		Defensible Space Chipper Program	98,445
		Feather Falls Shaded Fuel Break Phase III	98,980
		Grizzly Creek Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project	12,300
		Hidden Falls Regional Park—Fuel Load Reduction and Related Fire Safe Activities	506,207
		Mariposa County Chipping Program	115,787
		Mariposa County Defensible Space Assistance/Hazardous Fuel Chipping Program Phase I (Cutting and Piling)	99,970
		Mill City Fuels Reduction Project	199,998
		Nevada County (FIRST) Community Shaded Fuelbreak and Riparian Forest Restoration Project	406,000
		Squaw Valley Park Fuels Reduction and Related FireSafe Activities	245,500
		Vegetation Management: Forest Thinning, Brush Mastication and Prescribed Burning	214,044
		<i>Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire) Total</i>	2,420,253
	Natural Resource	Crystal Cave Solar Generation Project	211,500
		Feather River College Hatchery	70,000
		Kern Plateau Stream and Riparian Restoration	91,300
		Lower Owens River Watershed Habitat Improvement Project	156,622
		Mono Basin Resource Stewardship	96,100
		Susanville Fuel Reduction and Watershed Restoration Project	99,999
		Tule River Watershed Restoration Project	93,776
		<i>Natural Resource Total</i>	819,297

APPENDIX B: FISCAL YEAR 2007–08 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY PROJECT CATEGORY

Project Category	Project Purpose	Project Title	Total
Site Improvement <i>(continued)</i>	Recreation Use/Impact/Access	Inyo Forest Restoration and Conservation Project	\$ 58,000
		Merced River Center, Phase I, Building Renovation	93,108
		Sierra Nevada Trails and Recreation Initiative—Project	50,000
		Recreation Use/Impact/Access Total	
	Resource Management	Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative	98,500
		Filippini Ranch Riparian Restoration	92,000
		Sierra Nevada Foothills Native Plant Demonstration Garden	63,998
		Resource Management Total	
	Water Quality	Green Fields of Golden Sierra	300,000
		Merrill Davies Stream and Meadow Restoration	152,000
		Tule River Improvement Project	99,999
		Tule River Site Improvement Project II	149,428
		US Hwy 40 (Donner Pass Road) Shoulder Rehabilitation	500,000
		Water Quality Total	
	Working Landscapes	South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project	99,999
		South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project/Ash Valley	51,720
		Working Landscapes Total	
	Site Improvement Total		\$ 5,346,852
Grand Total			\$ 16,964,568